



## **WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP**

4990 ZIMMER ROAD  
WILLIAMSTON MI 48895  
PHONE: 517-655-3193

5/21/2014

### **Senate Agriculture Committee**

Good Morning Senators and thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak. I am Mickey Martin, Supervisor Williamstown Township. I am in support of the changes in the GAAMP's for Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities. I am in support of the definition of residential and the addition of category 4 site selection.

Williamstown Township is a zoned community. More specifically, the Township has sixteen zones in total to accommodate many land uses. Zoning is valued for the quality of life and protection of living choices it affords residents by defining uses. Zoning classifications define the uses permitted by right or by special use in each district. This is invaluable to people when they are researching the area in which they want to live.

For example, zones can define land as strictly residential, commercial agriculture, industrial or Mobile Home Park zones allowing residents to choose how near or far they want to live from an industrial site, convenience store, gas station, farm animal or subdivision. Zoning protects residents from conflict by keeping incompatible or unsuitable uses away from certain zones. Our township uses zoning to guide growth and development in harmony with current and future land use and to protect health, safety and home values.

You have heard that this will eliminate livestock in all residential zones. This is not true. In Williamstown Township we have several residential zones with only two residential zones that are for single family residential with livestock not permitted. These zones do allow gardening and growing of all foods just not farm livestock. These zones are also the highest density zones of less than an acre of land and the majority are in subdivisions.

Williamstown Township promotes and supports agriculture in areas zoned for agriculture. We also promote and support areas devoted to residential uses. This is not a move to in any way eliminate farming. It is a move to reduce the conflict with in the primarily residential zones. Before the change in site selection on any size lot in any area the potential for a livestock facility of up to 50 animal units could be created. And as stated previously this could be 5,000 chickens or 35 cattle. The change in the site selection has addressed this situation and reduces conflicts. Residents can work with their local Townships when they wish to use the property in a different

use than is currently allowed. To move in and start up a commercial business in farming without first checking with the local municipality is not the way to start. And again results in conflicts.

I want to thank MDARD for all of their time in working through the proposed changes. It was not an easy task and they spent a considerable amount of time researching and fact finding in revising the Site Selection GAAMPS.

I thank you Senators for your time today

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mickey S. Martin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mickey S. Martin, Supervisor  
Williamstown Township